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## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HECK of Nevada).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
July 31, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOSEPH HECK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

### PANCREATIC CANCER AND BETSY KAPLAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support cancer victims and also to honor a valiant leader in our community who turns 86 on August 12—Betsy Kaplan.

I will start by asking all of us to support the patients, the families, and victims of a special type of cancer—pancreatic cancer. Pancreatic cancer is the deadliest of all forms of cancer

with a 5-year survival rate of just 6 percent. In 2013 alone, pancreatic cancer will affect 45,000 patients—73 percent of whom will die within 1 year of diagnosis. In my home State of Florida, it is estimated that out of the 3,380 new cases, 2,770 people will die from this terrible disease.

Last year, I was proud to help pass the Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act, a bill designed to turn around these horrible statistics. Mr. Speaker, we must continue to make survival from pancreatic cancer a priority, and I urge my colleagues to stand with us in this fight.

A south Floridian who is involved in many worthwhile causes, whether they are related to improving the lives of others or fighting for better treatment for the disabled, is Betsy Kaplan. Betsy is a retired school board member from Miami-Dade County Public Schools. She served there for 16 years and has been recognized in our community for her notable achievements and contributions fostering arts education and student guidance in our public schools.

With an unprecedented 47 years of professional experience in the education field, Betsy retired with many honors from her teaching career to spearheading the adoption of the tobacco-free schools policy and advocating for educational programs that cater to special needs students.

A decorated award winner, Betsy has received numerous honors ranging from the Florida School Board's President's Award to being recognized as a Woman of Impact by the Community Coalition for Women's History. Most recently, Betsy received the Breaking the Glass Ceiling Award from the Jewish Museum of Florida at Florida International University.

It is thanks to Betsy that the Miami-Dade school district is known as an outstanding model of public arts education in the Nation.

As a former Florida certified teacher, I recognize Betsy's commitment to en-

suring that our students get the quality education they deserve, and I thank Betsy for her exceptional efforts in creating opportunities for students to learn, to grow, and to succeed in their educational, social, and professional lives.

So congratulations to Betsy Kaplan, and let us all keep up the fight to beat all types of cancer, especially pancreatic cancer.

### INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, in a few minutes, we will be meeting with President Obama here in the Capitol. While I appreciate the President's commitment to the economy, and I do believe he is passionate about renewing and rebuilding America, there is a certain irony to having the conversation today, because this is the very same day the House is supposed to be completing its work on a woefully inadequate budget bill to fund Transportation, Housing and Urban Development.

By insisting on an increase in defense spending and approving a budget target that is unrealistically low and freezing in the sequestration, we are seeing budgets that bear no relationship to reality: \$44.1 billion in transportation discretionary appropriations, down 15 percent from the authorized level. It makes no attempt to deal with the looming collapse of the highway trust fund; it slashes Amtrak a third below the current level—hardly responsible.

Many of the budget reductions in the housing programs and the Community Development Block Grants are even worse. We began those deliberations on the same day the American Society for Civil Engineers released their report card on the state of America's infrastructure. The grade was D-plus. It was

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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